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United Nations

Commission on Population and Development

Report on the fortieth session (10 May 2006 and 9-13 April 2007)

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Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures.

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Summary

The fortieth session of the Commission on Population and Development was held at United Nations Headquarters on 10 May 2006 and from 9 to 13 April 2007. Its special theme was "Changing age structures of population and their implications for development".

The documents before the Commission included the report of the Secretary-General on world population monitoring, focusing on the session's theme. The report addressed the demographic, social and economic aspects of changing age structures of populations and their implications for development, describing trends and prospects; the likely economic implications; the potential for increasing a society's wealth as people save more in preparation for a longer period in retirement; the importance of intergenerational transfers and the institutions that support them; the importance of ensuring intergenerational equity and improving the livelihoods of young generations by improving educational attainment and increasing job opportunities; and policy approaches to the implications of population ageing.

Other documents considered by the Commission were: the report of the Bureau of the Commission on its intersessional meetings; four reports of the Secretary-General, one on the monitoring of population programmes, focusing on changing age structures and their implications for development, another on the inflows of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, a third on world demographic trends and a fourth on the programme of work of the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in the field of population in 2006; and a note by the Secretariat on the draft programme of work of the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs for the biennium 2008-2009. Under agenda item 2, the Commission heard the presentation of a conference room paper on the reform of the Economic and Social Council.

The Commission also heard keynote addresses by Ronald Lee, Director of the Center on the Economics and Demography of Aging at the University of California at Berkeley, United States of America; Dr. Somnath Chatterji, Team Leader of the Multi-Country Studies Unit in the Department of Measurement and Health Information Systems of the World Health Organization (Geneva); and Ms. Nyovani Madise, Senior Research Scientist at the African Population and Health Research Centre (Nairobi).

In its consideration of follow-up actions to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Commission decided that the theme of its forty-second session, to be held in 2009, would be "The contribution of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals". The Commission also adopted a resolution on national, regional and international action on the subject of changing age structures and their implications for development. In that resolution, the Commission recognized that the ongoing reductions in fertility and mortality were producing changes in the age structures of the world's populations, which, although leading to population ageing, were also producing a period in which the age structure was favourable to development because the proportion of persons of working age was increasing in relation to the proportion of children and older persons considered

jointly. To translate this "window of opportunity" into benefits for development required national policies, an international economic environment conducive to investment, employment and sustained economic development and the further integration and full participation of developing countries in the global economy. The Commission also urged Governments to provide young people with opportunities for further education, acquiring skills and participating fully in all aspects of society; and called upon Governments to create an enabling environment at all levels to increase the labour market participation of women, older persons, youth and disadvantaged groups, with a view to improving their productive employment and helping them lead self-sufficient lives. In the same resolution, the Commission also urged Governments to promote healthy living at all ages and in all spheres of health and recognized that population ageing was taking place at a much faster pace in developing countries than in developed countries, giving them less time to adjust to the increasing number of older persons and making it difficult to mobilize resources for the support of the older population. In that regard, the Commission called upon Governments to develop and implement policies aimed at ensuring that all persons had adequate economic and social protection during old age and to strive to ensure the integrity, sustainability, solvency and transparency of pension schemes while paying attention to their intergenerational impacts. Lastly, the Commission encouraged Governments, the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations to assist developing countries in assessing the possible impact of changing age structures and in building capacities to respond to the challenges and opportunities resulting from demographic shifts.

Under agenda item 4, the Commission heard a presentation by a representative of the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs on the theme "Violence against women".

The Commission decided to take note of the documents submitted to it at its fortieth session, approved the draft provisional agenda for its forty-first session and adopted the report on its fortieth session.

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft decision

1. The Commission recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its fortieth session and provisional agenda for the forty-first session of the Commission

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) *Takes note* of the report of the Commission on Population and Development on its fortieth session;

(b) *Approves* the provisional agenda for the forty-first session of the Commission as set out below:

1. Election of officers.[1]

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

Documentation

Provisional agenda for the forty-first session of the Commission

Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the work of the session

Report of the Bureau of the Commission on its intersessional meetings

3. Follow-up actions to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on world population monitoring, focusing on population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development

Report of the Secretary-General on the monitoring of population programmes, focusing on population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development

Report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

[1] In accordance with its decision 2004/2, the Commission, immediately following the close of its fortieth session, will hold the first meeting of its forty-first session for the sole purpose of electing the new Chairman and other officers of the Commission, in accordance with rule 15 of the rules and procedures of the functional commissions of the Council.

4. General debate on national experience in population matters: population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development.

5. Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population, 2007

6. Provisional agenda for the forty-second session of the Commission.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the forty-second session of the Commission

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-first session.

B. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

2. The following resolution and decisions adopted by the Commission are brought to the attention of the Council:

Resolution 2007/1
Changing age structures of populations and their implications for development

The Commission on Population and Development,

Recalling the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[1] in particular chapter VI on population growth and structure, and the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action,[2] in particular section II B on changing age structure and ageing of the population,

Recognizing that the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the key actions for its further implementation are integrally linked to global efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development and that the achievement of the goals of the Programme of Action is consistent with and makes an essential contribution to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

[1] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18).

[2] General Assembly resolution S-21/2, annex; *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-first special session, Supplement No. 3* (A/S-21/5/Rev.1); and A/S-21/PV.9.

Recalling the Political Declaration and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,[3] General Assembly resolution 58/134 of 22 December 2003 on the roadmap for the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action and Assembly resolutions 59/150 of 20 December 2004, 60/135 of 16 December 2005 and 61/142 of 19 December 2006 on the follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing,

Recalling also the relevant provisions on changing age structures of populations and their implications for development contained, inter alia, in the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development,[4] the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,[5] the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[6] and their periodic reviews, and the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance on 8 September 2001,[7]

Recalling further the United Nations Millennium Declaration[8] and the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[9]

Recalling General Assembly resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006 on the follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals; and resolution 61/16 of 20 November 2006 on strengthening of the Economic and Social Council,

Recalling also the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond,[10] General Assembly resolution 60/2 of 6 October 2005 on policies and programmes involving youth and previous Assembly resolutions related to the rights of the child,

Recalling further the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS of 2 June 2006,[11]

Recognizing that all populations of the world are undergoing a historically unique transition from high levels of fertility and mortality to low levels of fertility and mortality, known as the demographic transition, which has strong effects on the age structure of populations, and cognizant of the fact that countries are at different stages of this transition, with some countries still experiencing high levels of fertility,

Recognizing also that in the first stage of the demographic transition, when mortality is falling, the proportion of children increases, that in the second stage, when both fertility and mortality are falling, the proportion of adults of working age increases, and that in the third stage, when fertility and mortality reach low levels, only the proportion of older persons increases,

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[3] *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8-12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[4] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[5] Ibid., annex II.

[6] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[7] See A/CONF.189/12 and Corr.1, chap. I.

[8] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[9] General Assembly resolution 60/1.

[10] General Assembly resolution 50/81, annex.

[11] General Assembly resolution 60/262, annex.

Recognizing further that the second stage of the demographic transition presents a window of opportunity for development and that the translation of this window of opportunity into benefits for development requires national policies and an international economic environment conducive to investment, employment, sustained economic development and further integration and full participation of developing countries in the global economy,

Acknowledging that population ageing is taking place at a much faster pace in developing than in developed countries, giving the former less time to adjust to the increasing number of older persons, making it difficult to mobilize resources for their support,

Noting that children and youth constitute nearly half of the population of developing countries and that two thirds of the world's older persons live in developing countries,

Reaffirming that gender equality and the promotion and protection of the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all are essential to advance development, including for tackling the development implications of changing age structures,

Reaffirming also that development is a central goal in itself and that sustainable development in its economic, social and environmental aspects constitutes a key element of the overarching framework of United Nations activities,

Reaffirming further the three priority directions agreed in the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing:[3] older persons and development; advancing health and well-being into old age; and ensuring enabling and supportive environments,

Noting with concern that poverty is one of the major threats to people's well-being, especially children, the young and older persons,

Bearing in mind that women constitute the majority of older persons in almost all societies and that their share of the population increases with advancing age,

Recognizing that a heavy disease burden, especially in many developing countries, in particular the HIV/AIDS pandemic, affects population dynamics, shortens life expectancy and slows economic growth through lost productivity and other factors that undermine development,

Recognizing also the important role of all families in meeting the many challenges posed by the changing age structures of populations,

Taking note with appreciation of the reports of the Secretary-General on world population monitoring[12] and on the monitoring of population programmes,[13] both of which focus on the changing age structures of populations and their implications for development, and taking note also of the report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[14]

[12] E/CN.9/2007/3.
[13] E/CN.9/2007/4.
[14] E/CN.9/2007/5.

1. *Reaffirms* the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development[1] and the key actions for its further implementation;[2]

2. *Stresses* that since countries are at different stages of the demographic transition and experience different social and economic conditions, development and policy implications vary from country to country depending on their level of social and economic development;

3. *Encourages* Governments, the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations to assist developing countries in assessing the possible impact of changing population age structures and in building capacities to respond to the challenges and opportunities resulting from changing population age structures;

4. *Reaffirms* the commitments to and emphasizes the need to fully implement the global partnership for development set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[8] the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development[15] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[16] ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation") and to enhance the momentum generated by the 2005 World Summit in order to operationalize and implement, at all levels, the commitments set out in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the 2005 World Summit, in the economic, social and related fields;

5. *Stresses* the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective in policy and planning processes at all levels and the need to eliminate discrimination on the basis of gender and age, including the elimination of all forms of violence against women of all ages, and of ensuring equal rights and their full enjoyment by women of all ages;

6. *Recognizes* that investing in young people is an urgent development priority and that it will contribute to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

7. *Reaffirms* the resolve, expressed in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[8] to ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, are able to complete a full course of primary schooling, *urges* Governments to provide young people with opportunities for obtaining further education, acquiring skills and participating fully in all aspects of society, with a view, inter alia, to improving their productive employment and helping them to lead self-sufficient lives, and *recalls* that a knowledge-based society also requires that policies be instituted to ensure life-long access to education and training;

8. *Expresses its concern* that at the present time developing countries have a large number of persons reaching old age with minimal literacy and numeracy, which limits their capacity to earn a livelihood and may thus influence their enjoyment of health and well-being;

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[15] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7).

[16] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1).

9. *Reaffirms* the Dakar Framework for Action on Education for All[17] adopted at the World Education Forum in 2000, and underlines the importance of the Education for All partnership as a tool to achieve the Millennium Development Goal of universal primary education by 2015;

10. *Calls upon* Governments to take action to create an enabling environment at all levels to increase labour market participation, including special efforts to raise the participation of women, older persons, youth and disadvantaged groups, such as the long-term unemployed and persons with disabilities, in order to reduce the risk of exclusion or dependency in later life;

11. *Stresses* the importance of fully mobilizing the active population through family-friendly policies that support parents and legal guardians in combining work and parental roles;

12. *Invites* countries with ageing populations to promote measures to address this situation, including with family-friendly policies;

13. *Encourages* Governments to apply policies that support gender equality, protect the human rights of older persons, particularly older women, and assist abused older persons;

14. *Also encourages* Governments, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, including civil society, to enhance, through appropriate mechanisms the self-reliance of older persons, including: where appropriate, the promotion of a continued participation in working life, if desired, inter alia, by promoting a new approach to retirement that takes the needs of the employees, as well as the employers into account, in particular by applying the principle of flexible retirement policies and practices while maintaining acquired pension rights; the creation of conditions that promote the quality of life of older persons and enable them to work and live independently in their own communities as long as possible or desired; the provision of continuing education and the encouragement of life-long learning; and the ensuring of equal access to high-quality health and social services;

15. *Calls upon* Governments to develop and implement policies aimed at ensuring that all persons have adequate economic and social protection during old age and to strive to ensure the integrity, sustainability, solvency and transparency of pension schemes and, where appropriate, disability insurance, while paying attention to their intergenerational impacts so that the burden is not chiefly borne by certain generations;

16. *Invites* Governments, mindful of economic obstacles that may exist in some developing and other countries, to facilitate the accumulation of assets through personal savings and investments by individuals in order to cover consumption at older ages by setting up or promoting appropriate institutional mechanisms, if they do not already exist, and to ensure effective monitoring of such mechanisms;

17. *Invites* Governments to develop comprehensive strategies to meet the increasing demand for long-term care for older persons, including by adopting and implementing measures that assist families in providing basic care and support for

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[17] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Final Report of the World Education Forum, Dakar, Senegal, 26-28 April 2000* (Paris, 2000).

their older members, taking into account the need to ensure that women and girls are not disproportionately burdened;

18. *Recalls* the worldwide need to expand educational opportunities in the field of geriatrics and gerontology for all health professionals who work with older persons and to improve information and training for health professionals and para-professionals on the needs of older persons, and in this context acknowledges the need to enhance international cooperation;

19. *Urges* Governments to promote healthy living at all ages and in all spheres of health, including sexual and reproductive health, in particular the improvement of maternal, child and adolescent health, and efforts to reduce maternal and child mortality, and to take steps to prepare health-care systems to meet the challenges posed by changing age structures;

20. *Notes* that HIV/AIDS affects the structure of the population in many developing countries, notably in Africa, and poses significant challenges to the economic and social stability in the most affected countries, and encourages Governments to address the rising rates of HIV infection among young people to ensure HIV-free future generations through the implementation of comprehensive, evidence-based prevention strategies, responsible sexual behaviour, including the use of condoms, evidence- and skills-based, youth-specific HIV education, mass-media interventions and the provision of youth-friendly health services;

21. *Recognizes* the gravity of the public health problems afflicting many developing countries and least developed countries, especially those resulting from HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other communicable diseases, and encourages Governments to adopt measures that address these challenges;

22. *Stresses* the importance of the collection, analysis and dissemination of data and population statistics disaggregated by age and sex on all aspects of policy formulation by all countries, and encourages the relevant entities of the United Nations to support national efforts in capacity-building, especially those of developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

23. *Calls upon* the relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to continue promoting partnerships at the national and international levels to promote a holistic package of gender-sensitive interventions to ensure the well-being of young people and improve their life prospects, inter alia, by enhancing their educational attainment, promoting healthy lifestyles and safeguarding their health, including sexual and reproductive health, and by supporting young people's social engagement and participation, including in activities to reduce poverty and marginalization;

24. *Reaffirms* that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized in the achievement of sustainable development;

25. *Calls upon* Governments, taking into account the development situation in each country, to promote both intergenerational equity and solidarity by taking into account the implications of the changing age structures of the population in medium- and long-term development planning and by considering the age-related consequences of social and economic policies;

26. *Welcomes* the increased resources that will become available as a result of the establishment of timetables by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance by 2015 and to reach at least 0.5 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance by 2010 and, pursuant to the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,[18] 0.15 per cent to 0.20 per cent for the least developed countries no later than 2010, and urges those developed countries that have not yet done so to make concrete efforts in this regard in accordance with their commitments;

27. *Also welcomes* recent efforts and initiatives to enhance the quality of aid and to increase its impact, including the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, and calls for concrete, effective and timely action in implementing all agreed commitments on aid effectiveness, with clear monitoring and deadlines, including through further aligning assistance with country strategies, building institutional capacities, reducing transaction costs and eliminating bureaucratic procedures, making progress on untying aid, enhancing the absorptive capacity and financial management of recipient countries and strengthening the focus on development results;

28. *Acknowledges* that for developing countries that cannot generate sufficient resources, the lack of adequate funding remains the chief constraint to the full implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development;

29. *Notes* that recent increases in the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action have been primarily a result of the increased funding for HIV/AIDS activities, expresses concern that funding for family planning, which has been steadily decreasing, is below the suggested target level, and therefore emphasizes the importance of a continued mobilization of the required resources to implement the Programme of Action by the international community, including Governments of both donors and developing countries;

30. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his substantive work on the changing age structures of populations, including levels, trends, determinants, consequences and policies, giving due attention to their implications for development.

Decision 2007/1
Special theme for the Commission on Population and Development in 2009*

The Commission on Population and Development decides that the special theme for the forty-second session of the Commission in 2009 shall be "The contribution of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals".

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* For the discussion, see chap. II, paras. 15 and 16.

[18] A/CONF.191/13, chap. II.

Decision 2007/2
Documents considered by the Commission on Population and Development at its fortieth session

The Commission on Population and Development takes note of the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on world demographic trends;[19]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2006: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs;[20]

(c) Note by the Secretariat on the draft programme of work of the Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, for the biennium 2008-2009.[21]

[19] E/CN.9/2007/6.
[20] E/CN.9/2007/7.
[21] E/CN.9/2007/8.

Chapter II

Follow-up actions to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development

1. The Commission held a general discussion on item 3 of its agenda, entitled "Follow-up actions to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development", at its 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 6th and 7th meetings, on 9, 10, 11 and 13 April 2007. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on world population monitoring, focusing on the changing age structures of populations and their implications for development (E/CN.9/2007/3);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the monitoring of population programmes, focusing on the changing age structures of populations and their implications for development (E/CN.9/2007/4);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (E/CN.9/2007/5);

(d) Statement submitted by Population Action International, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.9/2007/NGO/1).

2. At the 2nd meeting, on 9 April, statements were made by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

3. At the same meeting, introductory statements were made by the Director of the Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs; the Chief of the Population Studies Branch of the Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs; the Director of the Technical Support Division, UNFPA; and the Senior Project Adviser of the Population and Development Branch, Technical Support Division, UNFPA.

4. Also at the 2nd meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Pakistan (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), the Russian Federation, the United States of America and China.

5. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of the World Health Organization (WHO). Statements were also made by the representatives of the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the Economic Commission for Europe.

6. At the 3rd meeting, on 9 April, a statement was made by the representative of Switzerland.

Keynote addresses

7. At its 3rd meeting, on 9 April, the Commission heard a keynote address by Ronald Lee, Director of the Center on the Economics and Demography of Aging,

University of California at Berkeley, United States, which was followed by a discussion in which the delegations of Colombia, Norway, Spain, the United Republic of Tanzania, Switzerland, Italy, Germany, Pakistan and the United States took part.

8. At its 4th meeting, on 10 April, the Commission heard a keynote address by Dr. Somnath Chatterji, Team Leader of the Multi-country Studies Unit, Department of Measurement and Health Information Systems, WHO, which was followed by a discussion in which the delegations of Chile, Germany and Norway took part.

9. At its 6th meeting, on 11 April, the Commission heard a keynote address by Ms. Nyovani Madise, Senior Research Scientist, African Population and Health Research Centre, Nairobi, which was followed by a discussion in which the delegations of Switzerland, Benin, Kazakhstan, the United States, Haiti, Afghanistan, Botswana and Italy took part.

Action taken by the Commission

Changing age structures of populations and their implications for development

10. At its 7th meeting, on 13 April, the Vice-Chairman, Thomas Gass (Switzerland), reported on the outcome of informal consultations.

11. Also at the 7th meeting, the Commission had before it a draft resolution, entitled "Changing age structures of populations and their implications for development", submitted by the Chairman, which was circulated in English only.

12. At the same meeting, the Secretary made a statement regarding the question of programme budget implications on the draft resolution.

13. Also at the 7th meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution (see chap. I, sect. B).

14. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement in explanation of vote was made by the representatives of the United States of America. Statements were also made by the representatives of Norway, Germany (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union and associated countries) and Pakistan (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China).

Special theme for the Commission on Population and Development in 2009

15. At the 7th meeting, on 13 April, the Chairman read out the text of a draft decision entitled "Special theme for the Commission on Population and Development in 2009".

16. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 2007/1).

Chapter III

General debate on national experience in population matters: the changing age structures of populations and their implications for development

1. The Commission held a general discussion on item 4 of its agenda, entitled "General debate on national experience in population matters: the changing age structures of populations and their implications for development", at its 4th, 5th and 6th meetings, on 10 and 11 April 2007.

2. At the 4th meeting, on 10 April, a presentation was made by the representative of the Division for the Advancement of Women, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, on the theme "Violence against women".

3. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Germany (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union and associated countries), China, Peru, Cuba, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Portugal, Belgium, Spain, Singapore and the Russian Federation.

4. At the 5th meeting, on 10 April, statements were made by the representatives of Hungary, the Philippines, the United States of America, Croatia, Indonesia, Sweden, Bangladesh, Mexico, Japan, Ukraine, Malaysia, Colombia, Armenia, India, Pakistan, South Africa, France, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Australia, Uruguay, Guyana, Canada and Italy and by the observer for the Holy See.

5. At the 6th meeting, on 11 April, statements were made by the representatives of Botswana, Benin, Ghana and Haiti.

6. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the International Organization for Migration, the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

7. Also at the 6th meeting, a statement was made by the observer for the AARP, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

Chapter IV

Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population

1. The Commission held a general discussion on item 5 of its agenda, entitled "Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population", at its 6th meeting, on 11 April 2007. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on world demographic trends (E/CN.9/2007/6);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2006: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (E/CN.9/2007/7);

(c) Note by the Secretariat on the draft programme of work of the Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, for the biennium 2008-2009 (E/CN.9/2007/8).

2. At the meeting, the Chief of the Demographic Analysis Branch and the Senior Population Affairs Officer of the Population Division made introductory statements.

3. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Netherlands, the United States and Morocco.

4. Also at the 6th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the Economic Commission for Europe.

Action taken by the Commission

Documents considered by the Commission under agenda item 5

5. At its 7th meeting, on 13 April, upon the proposal of the Chairman, the Commission took note of the documentation submitted under agenda item 5 (see chap I.B, decision 2007/2).

6. At the same meeting, the Secretary responded to a statement made by the representative of Morocco.

Chapter V
Other matters

Reform of the Economic and Social Council

1. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 61/16 requesting the functional commissions to contribute to the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission considered the question of reform of the Council, under agenda item 2 of its agenda, entitled "Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters" at its 6th meeting on 11 April. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on the reform of the Council (E/CN.9/2007/CRP.1).

2. At the same meeting, the Chairman summarized the conference room paper.

Chapter VI

Provisional agenda for the forty-first session of the Commission

1. At its 7th meeting, on 13 April, the Commission had before it the provisional agenda for the forty-first session of the Commission (E/CN.9/2007/L.2).

2. At the same meeting, the Commission decided to recommend the provisional agenda to the Economic and Social Council for adoption (see chap. I.A).

Chapter VII

Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fortieth session

1. At its 7th meeting, on 13 April 2007, the Commission adopted the draft report on its fortieth session (E/CN.9/2007/L.3), as introduced by the Vice-Chairperson-cum-Rapporteur, Andriy Nikitov (Ukraine).

2. At the same meeting, the Commission authorized the Vice-Chairperson-cum-Rapporteur to finalize the report.

Chapter VIII
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Commission held its fortieth session at United Nations Headquarters on 10 May 2006 and from 9 to 13 April 2007. The Commission held 7 meetings (1st to 7th).

B. Attendance

2. The session was attended by 47 States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and one non-member State, representatives of organizations and other entities of the United Nations system, and observers for intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations also attended. The list of participants will be available in document E/CN.9/2007/INF/1.

C. Election of officers

3. At its 1st meeting, on 10 May 2006, the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairman:
Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury (Bangladesh)

Vice-Chairpersons:
Alvaro Portillo (Uruguay)
Abdellah Benmellouk (Morocco)
Andriy Nikitov (Ukraine)
Thomas Gass (Switzerland)

4. At its 2nd meeting, on 9 April 2007, the Commission elected Muhammad Ali Sorcar (Bangladesh) to fill the post of Chairman for the unexpired term left vacant by the resignation of Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury (Bangladesh) and designated Andriy Nikitov (Ukraine) to serve as Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur.

D. Report of the Bureau of the Commission on its intersessional meeting

5. At its 2nd meeting, on 9 April, the Chairman reported on the intersessional meetings of the Bureau of the Commission.

6. At the same meeting, the Commission took note of the report of the Bureau (E/CN.9/2007/2).

E. Agenda

7. At its 2nd meeting, on 9 April, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda (E/CN.9/2007/1). The provisional agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up actions to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development.
4. General debate on national experience in population matters: the changing age structures of populations and their implications for development.
5. Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population.
6. Provisional agenda for the forty-first session of the Commission.
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fortieth session.

F. Documentation

8. The list of documents before the Commission at its fortieth session is available on the website of the Population Division at http://www.un.org/esa/population.

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